

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

a) Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Chairman Wagner: Discussion occurred regarding upcoming seminars and work shops and suggested if any Board member wished to attend to contact himself or Vice-Chairman Thompson.

b) Chairman Wagner stated that the DDA had received a Christmas card from Project Control Engineering.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a) Design Guideline Draft

Vice-Chairman Thompson stated this matter has been table for the last couple of meetings and suggested that this matter again be tabled for a later date.

Chairman Wagner: Questioned whether a copy of the draft had been sent to Planning Commission and whether or not a joint meeting could be scheduled just to review the draft?

DeBoyer: Stated that a meeting could possibly be scheduled after the first of the year.

b) Banner Sign

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated the winter banners have been put up. He is going to put a request for bids out. Mr. Bryson has someone that is interested in bidding on this project. Also, Ed Phillips from Phillips Sign is also interested in bidding on the project. And, he will get a bid from Banner Sign. He will put a proposal together for the bidding.

Bryson: Stated the gentlemen that he knows that is interested is from MLS Signs.

Chairman Wagner: Stated he will assume that we will have some proposals on this possibly by the next meeting.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated that we don't have this on this Agenda, but we probably should have included under Old Business, Sidewalk Phase IV since Mr. Monte is here.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Thompson to amend the Agenda under Old Business to include 7(c), Sidewalk Phase IV Update from Project Control Engineering, supported by Johnson.

AYES: All

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

c) Phase IV Sidewalk – Update

Monte: Soil borings for the bridge location are being done pursuant to the authorization received at the last meeting. The sidewalk has basically been designed. They had a meeting with the Road Commission and MDOT to review the sidewalk plans, walked the job with them to see if there are signs in the way or any issues. One issue that came up is the drainage. Last year they were in the process of doing a part of the drainage when we began the sidewalk. We were concerned that they wouldn't be done before we got our sidewalk out for bids. We wanted to talk to them about this because we had heard that they might be doing some additional work. The only thing that is difficult in this is that we don't know when to go out for bids because the County won't tie down when they will do any work. He believes this is the first time the County has asked the DDA to pay for a portion of the work.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated that he thought DDA had paid for a bunch around here.

Monte: Stated that he understands the work that was done around the Township hall, but he's referring to the last piece that the County did on M-29.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated that the DDA didn't have to pay for any of that work.

Monte: Stated they were in the midst of completing that work when we started the last phase of the work last year.

Chairman Wagner: Questioned Mr. Monte as to who he deals with regarding the County work?

Monte: Stated he believed it is Tom Kramer.

DeBoyer: Stated that Tom Kramer is in charge of this area from the Road Commission, and Kirk Weston is the head of the Road Commission. Mr. Kramer came in and spoke to Mr. Pellerito and stated that it was his understanding that MDOT will not give you a permit for the sidewalk unless the drainage is done. Therefore, he questioned if MDOT pays for the materials would DDA be willing to pay for the labor? Then, you would be more likely to get a permit.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated that we're then in a time frame for not being able to go out for bids.

Monte: Stated we would still have to work that out with them. The drainage along there has always been bad. Mr. Pellerito had contacted him and stated that the Road Commission

blamed us for the bad drainage. That is ridiculous. The one thing we always do before we start these projects is photograph every site after a rain so that any individual landowner that comes in and complains about a puddle in front of their property, we have proof that it existed prior. There is no drainage along there and it definitely is a well-needed item. What was done in the other section is working very well with the exception of a few little spots. Where they stopped is very obvious.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Questioned whether this would be from the fence place to the DNR property?

Chairman Wagner: From M-29 north side from Pearl Beach Boulevard west open ditch.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: So, we're not closing in the ditch by the DNR property?

Chairman Wagner: No, it's to the open ditch.

Monte: No, this is the same as what they did last time. They put a perforated 18" pipe and back filled the stone and put catch basins in between to get the drainage off the edge of the street. He feels this is the right thing to do and hopes the DDA will be able to do this. It looks like they are threatening to hold up our permit if we don't do something to correct this.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Feels that they've got us back in the same boat that we were with Taft Road. They got us in the middle of that and we had to do storm drains on Ester Green and on Kretz, rebuild the storm drain on M-29 and everything else.

Chairman Wagner: Questioned whether they were going to run it down to the DNR?

Vice-Chairman Thompson: They're going to run it down to the DNR's open ditch. This is going from Pearl Beach Boulevard to the open ditch.

Monte: And, the catch basins will pick up the drainage. There is no question there are puddles along there since there is no place for the water to go.

Chairman Wagner: Questioned whether there is enough room to put the sidewalk in and the catch basins without more additional easements?

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated they do the catch basins and drains in their right-of-way.

Monte: Stated there is a few feet actual land that is left between the sidewalk.

Chairman Wagner: Stated that he is concerned that they will have the same problem that they had on Taft where their drain didn't effectively work.

Monte: Stated that this is very similar. If you look at the last section that was done, it is very similar. We followed everything that MDOT did there. There is only a short area of drainage and not a sufficient amount of right-of-way, but the number of basins that they put it helped tremendously. They have to prepare final engineering drawings and have them reviewed by MDOT and get them to the State of Michigan so they can go after the easement from the DNR property. Their easement acquisition person stated that next thing is that the State will have an appraiser put a value on the property. He doesn't feel the DDA should be charged for the easement on that property and if that becomes an issue, the DDA should take whatever action they need to, other than for the appropriate administrative fees.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Questioned whether any more research has been done on the bridge?

Monte: Stated he does not have any additional information on the bridge as of yet. They are still refining same and will come in with another estimate.

Little: Questioned whether the drains they will be installing will run along M-29 and the sidewalk will go along the opposite side of the ditch?

Monte: There will be no ditches. They will put a storm sewer in and catch basins between each driveway.

Chairman Wagner: The issue is 590 feet, every driveway, that's like every 40 ft. for 590 feet.

Monte: Essentially, what happens is if you have pavement in between and there's no catch basin, there's nowhere for the water to go. They try and put them in between each drive opening. They're plastic catch basins.

Chairman Wagner: Feels that it's still labor intense. They have to cut the tube, put it in and pay for every opening for 590 feet.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Stated there aren't all that many driveways from Pearl Beach Boulevard to the DNR ditch.

Siefert: Questioned Mr. Monte whether there is any reason we can't release the documents for bids with a note that the County will be doing drainage work in the area?

Monte: The only problem is that we want our contractor to clean it up as they're going along. We don't want an argument regarding clean up and would rather have the drainage work completed first.

Little: So, if we go ahead and agree to pay for the labor, there is no time frame as to when the County is going to start the work?

Monte: All I can do is try and push them and have the Township try and talk to them to get them to move along quicker.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **St. Clair County Road Commission Proposal for enclosing the ditches along M-29 for the last portion of the Phase IV sidewalk.**

Chairman Wagner: This is what we've been talking about, finishing putting drains in all the way down to the ditch at a cost of \$26,000.00.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: Believes the \$26,000.00 is for labor and materials. They are just talking about up to \$15,000.00 from us.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Thompson, supported by Siefert to approve proposal from the St. Clair County Road Commission to enclose the ditches from Pearl Beach Boulevard to the open ditch at the DNR property on M-29, for the cost not to exceed \$15,000.00, for the County to have their work completed by April 15th, 2008, and that St. Clair County cooperate with MDOT for DDA to obtain the appropriate permit.

Chairman Wagner: Questioned how we can coordinate the work with the County?

Monte: We are just looking for their cooperation, but we need to have a date so we can put this out for bids. Suggested that they request the work be completed early in the Spring so that our contractor can begin their work and requested that a time frame be placed on the County's portion of the work.

DeBoyer: Mr. Pellerito has a very good working relationship with Tom Kramer and she has a good working relationship with Kirk Weston. They would be more than willing to speak to them and request that they coordinate the work so that everything falls into line.

Chairman Wagner: He has no doubt that they would be willing to work with us, but it would be impossible for Project Control to put the job out for bids without a date for scheduling. Suggested proposing a date of April 15th to the County.

R/C VOTE:

AYES: Little, Johnson, Vice-Chairman Thompson, Siefert, Bryson, Chairman Wagner.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Horeftis (excused); Manos (excused)

MOTION CARRIED.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairperson Wagner: Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bryson: Questioned whether anything has been done regarding the property next door?

Little: DPW is going to rent equipment to knock down the house.

Siefert: Questioned why they are going to leave the block building?

DeBoyer: Stated that they were proposing to keep that building for possible use for restrooms.

Siefert: Feels that they would then be designing everything around that building.

Chairman Wagner: Suggested just taking everything one step at a time.

Little: Stated if it could be used, why tear it down and then realize we shouldn't have.

Vice-Chairman Thompson: In the long run it may not be the proper spot for restrooms, but let's get the house down and the other garage out of there and make some progress and go from there.

DeBoyer: The Township Board has approved the rental of the equipment by the DPW to tear down the house but there is no date as to when this is scheduled.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

DeBoyer: Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Thompson, supported by Little to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

AYES: All NAYS: None

ABSENT: Horeftis (excused); Manos (excused)

Respectfully submitted,

Christine J. Holcomb
Recording Secretary